

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

F. Nelson
Lots discuss
our PCB efforts

SUBJECT: PCB Sources - Slip 4

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LDWSF

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2/12/75TO: Francis L. Nelson
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THRU: A. R. Gahler

Recently several Boeing employees visited our laboratory facilities at Terminal 37. During the course of our discussion I asked their plant 2 Quality Control Chemist, Mr. Bossler, about possible PCB sources in the slip 4 area on the Duwamish River. (Of course, we have considered the Boeing Company a possible source of PCB ever since they were detected in Duwamish sediments in 1972). According to Mr. Bossler, Boeing has several transformers containing PCB near the north end of the King County-Boeing field complex. Also Mr. Bossler found out through Boeing's environmental officer, Pete Anderson, that FAA regulations require the use of non-flammable PCB hydraulic fluids in commercial airplanes. Of course, system leaks or unreported spills from either source could have occurred thus contaminating the air field. Since slip 4 drains most of the north end of the airfield one might assume both of the above uses to be possible sources of the pollutant in that area. We plan to investigate these and other possible sources of PCB in the next few months.

This region has several industrial complexes with more planned in the future. Transformers containing PCB that require periodic changing are currently in use with more expected and the danger of accidental spills will increase with their increasing numbers. Two spills in this area last fall point out this hazard.

I suggest the following steps be taken to help prevent future mishaps of this nature.

- (1) Inventory existing users of PCBs.
- (2) Prepare and distribute guide lines for the proper use and disposal of PCBs.
- (3) Require labeling of transformers, heat exchangers etc....that contain PCB indicating both type and amount of fluid used and an emergency number to call if a spill occurs.
- (4) Require that all spills be reported.

If the above steps are followed the threat of PCB spills should be lessened and proper clean-up of those that do occur will be assured.

